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## THE PRESERVATION OF FLORIDA HISTORY

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This paper concerns itself especially with the work of The Florida State Historical Society. Before approaching that subject specifically, however, it might be proper to say something of the effort expended (or the lack of effort) and the results obtained in Florida in the collecting and safeguarding of the records and history (whether in manuscript or in printed form, and whether governmental or otherwise) of the Florida region—region, I say, because the Florida of today is only a part of the Florida so designated by the early Spaniards, and because Florida has had, in the diversified course of its history, the status of colony, territory, and state. The following brief remarks, then, comprehend the work (or neglect) of the government (whether territorial or state) of Florida, that of local governments of Florida, and that of public and semi-public institutions and private libraries and collections in Florida. I have no intention at this time, for space forbids, of making more than this passing reference to the Florida materials in the great Spanish archives, or in those of Cuba, Mexico, and Great Britain (this last concerning the records of the British Floridas), or even of the extensive collections of transcripts in the Library of Congress; or of the excellent collections of printed materials (with some original manuscripts) in the latter institution, as well as in Harvard University Library, the American Antiquarian Society, the New York Public Library, The Clements Library of American History of the University of Michigan, the Ayer Collection of Newberry Library, Chicago, the García Collection of the University of Texas, the Henry E. Huntington

Library and Art Gallery, near Pasadena, California, or the Bancroft Collection of the University of California.

A Chicagoan is reported by some jester to have said of his city: "It's true, Chicago hasn't much culture yet, but just wait until it does begin to get it, Chicago will make culture hum." Now the state of Florida, regarded governmentally, is in a like position with respect to the gathering and preservation of its historical records, for if it is to preserve adequately those governmental records of the past, which still exist, and prepare for the preservation of present and future records, Florida must "make things hum." As it is, even, with belated energy, much that could have been saved but yesterday, is already gone forever, not primarily because of the carking tooth of time, but because of inexcusable neglect and carelessness. Florida is a wonderful state, with rich actualities and potentialities, and a patriotic, generous, and likable native and adopted population, but, alas, the central government, except for almost isolated, spasmodic outbursts, has had little concern for the adequate housing and preservation of its records and historical documents. These, as greater enlightenment in this regard is developed in the public consciousness, will grow in pricelessness—and unfortunately, for much that is of inestimable value, too late. This is an old, old story in these United States of ours for, from the federal government down, our history has been one continual orgy of burning or destroying or losing through neglect materials valuable and necessary for the proper telling of our development. And in this lack of care, Florida, alas, has been as bad as the worst offenders.

Florida has no public archives or working state library.<sup>1</sup> Each office has, of course, its administrative documents, but as these become unnecessary for the actual work of the office, the tendency has been to discard them, so that, being kicked about from pillar to post, in the course of time many are lost or destroyed—although in perfect fairness it must be said that there are some striking exceptions to this. It is true that there is a meager collection of administrative documents of a bygone day in the governor's office, and the secretary of state has three fireproof vaults into which are crammed many documents, as

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<sup>1</sup> But see *post*, p. 355.

well as many articles of a nondescript character. The latter are in general safe enough unless some over zealous official should undertake to make space by destroying materials of which he did not realize the importance. Except for some little order given voluntarily to these documents recently by Julien C. Yonge, of Pensacola, they are in a quite confused condition. It is pleasing to state that the land documents, some of which date from Spanish and English times, are well kept in a fire-proof vault in the rooms of the department of agriculture and can be easily consulted.<sup>2</sup>

A classic instance of the dangers by which documents are beset is furnished by the engrossed act of secession of the state of Florida, with the signatures thereto, which now hangs in the office of the secretary of state. This was saved as by fire from the trash heap.

The situation with regard to printed materials is almost as bad. Florida is a depository of the public documents published by the government of the United States, but no provision had been made for housing these adequately as late as the early months of this year. The volumes have been dumped indiscriminately on the floor of the room used as a work place by the janitor of the Capitol in Tallahassee. Some time ago, Julien C. Yonge and Professor James Owen Knauss (formerly of the Florida State College for Women), segregated from the mass those volumes containing Florida material, placing these on shelves in the same room. There is no assurance, however, that the volumes will be permanently saved. As for Florida printed records, there is apparently no single library that contains a full set or approximately a full set. For instance "the State does not appear to have a complete set of the printed journals of the legislature" and the Supreme Court has the only complete set of the laws of the state.<sup>3</sup>

I said above that certain gestures had been made toward the preservation of manuscripts and books. It might be well to inquire what these were. At the time of the transfer of Florida to the United States in 1821, the Spanish archives, at least in

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<sup>2</sup> See a description of these and some other collections in David Yancey Thomas, "Report on the Public Archives of Florida," in *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the year 1906* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1908), II. 149-158. Recent search failed to find some of the documents listed by Thomas.

<sup>3</sup> See Thomas, *ut supra*, p. 157.

part, accompanied the transfer, somewhat against the inclination of the erstwhile owners. The new government appointed keepers of the archives at St. Augustine and Pensacola, but apparently these officers were not continued, except perhaps nominally, for during the Civil War keepers were appointed by the state government. After the war, the documents were housed in the Capitol at Tallahassee until 1905, when they were transferred (some 2,500 lbs. in all) to the Library of Congress, with the exception of the land documents which were retained in Florida.<sup>4</sup>

The first governmental action looking directly toward the establishment of a state library was the act of the state legislature of July 18, 1845, entitled "An act respecting the books and maps belonging to this state." In it provision was made for the creation of three libraries, namely, a Legislative Library, an Executive Library, and a State Judicial Library. The act provided further that materials were to be properly catalogued, and appropriated \$150 for bookcases and necessary binding.<sup>5</sup>

What were the specific results of this act is unknown, but ten years later, namely, by act of January 11, 1855, the three libraries were consolidated and placed in charge of the secretary of state, who was appointed *ex officio* librarian of the state of Florida. The act appropriated \$100 to meet necessary expenses and \$200 for the payment of salary, payable in quarterly installments.<sup>6</sup> Results here appear to have been meager or perhaps nil. A third act, namely, that of February 13, 1861, placed the judicial part of the library directly under the Supreme Court.<sup>7</sup> From this has developed the Supreme Court Library of the present day which is housed in the court building in Tallahassee. This, the best collection of books under the state government at Tallahassee, is well-housed and well-kept and is reasonably well up-to-date along certain lines. It comes nearer to being a state library than any other collection in Florida.

There are also special collections of books in other government departments, as, for instance, that of the Florida Geo-

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<sup>4</sup> See Thomas, *ut supra*, p. 139; and "Report upon the Historic Buildings, Monuments, and local Archives of St. Augustine" in *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1905* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1906), I, 344.

<sup>5</sup> See *Acts and Resolutions*, 1845, pp. 34-35; and Brevard, *History of Florida* (DeLand, 1925), II, 31 n.

<sup>6</sup> See *Acts and Resolutions*, 1854-1855, p. 34; and Brevard, *op. cit.*

<sup>7</sup> See *Acts and Resolutions*, 1860-1861, p. 71; and Brevard, *op. cit.*

logical Survey. There are, too, growing general collections in the University of Florida, at Gainesville, and the Florida State College for Women, at Tallahassee. The Negro College, in the latter place, has a very small collection.

Until June 4, 1925, by virtue of the first of the above acts, the secretary of state was the potential state librarian, but he had no functions to perform under that head. There is assurance that this condition of affairs is at an end. In the legislative session of 1925, a house bill (No. 328) was introduced into the lower house, creating a state library and (under some strange hallucination of the old bills) providing that the secretary of state should be *ex officio* its librarian. Fortunately this bill was tabled after its report from the committee on education, April 22, 1925, and finally substituted by house bill No. 771, in May. The latter was passed by both houses and approved by the Governor, June 24, 1925, becoming Act No. 256 for 1925.<sup>8</sup> Thus the legislature has now made provision for a state library; but as late as February, 1926, no real steps, so far as known, had been taken to carry out the provisions of the act. A defect in the law was the failure to provide housing facilities for the new institution.

Still another attempt of the government to gather data for the history of Florida deserves mention. Some years ago, the legislature empowered one Thomas Bauskett to copy Florida materials in Washington, appropriating therefor the sum of \$6,000. Bauskett made a valuable index of the published documents relative to Florida, and copied from the printed reports a number of the documents themselves. The index is of distinct service, but the copying of documents might well have been avoided as useless, since the data were already published and Florida is a depository of federal publications.

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<sup>8</sup> It is entitled "An Act establishing the State Library of the State of Florida; creating the State Library Board, defining its powers and duties, and making an appropriation therefor." This provides for a Library Board of three members appointed by the Governor, who are to serve without compensation. The board is to be assisted by a paid secretary of its own choosing, who will become the librarian, and must have a training in modern library methods. Section 4 of the act declares that "All books, pictures, documents, publications, and manuscripts, received through gifts, purchase, or exchange, or on deposit from any source for the use of the State, shall constitute a part of the State Library, and shall be placed therein for the use of the public, under the control of the State Library Board." The duties of the board and the functions of the library resemble those of the state libraries and free library commissions of various states. See House and Senate *Journals* for 1925; and *General Acts and Resolutions of Florida*, 1925, I, 511-513. [As the proof of this article is read, it is pleasing to note that the State Library Board of the State of Florida has now been organized with W. T. Carr as Secretary; and that the Board has entered actively upon its duties. Arrangements are rapidly being matured for the presentation of materials relating to the history of Florida.]

Turning now to local governments, it is sufficient to call attention to the material in county courthouses, especially those at St. Augustine, Pensacola, and Jacksonville; and to that in the City Hall at St. Augustine. In all of these, valuable early records are found. Good records will be found in other similar local archives.<sup>9</sup> Among the public and semi-public institutions are the local historical societies and the public libraries. Chief among the local societies is The St. Augustine Institute of Science and Historical Society. This institution, especially since Miss Emily Wilson became its enthusiastic librarian, has amassed and is amassing many transcripts of early Spanish documents, printed and photographed maps (many manuscript), and books dealing with Florida. This is, in fact, a very important collection. The St. Petersburg Historical Society is second in importance to that of St. Augustine. The Jacksonville Public Library has an excellent collection of books, which has been made carefully and intelligently and to which constant additions are being made. Its Florida material occupies a special room. Smaller collections are found in Tampa and a few other places, and some libraries are just beginning to collect Floridiana.

The best collection in Florida is the private collection of P. K. and J. C. Yonge, of Pensacola, which is thrown open freely to students. This is under the direct charge of Julien C. Yonge, son of P. K. Yonge (the chairman of the Board of Control of Florida, and a well known business man), who is more thoroughly steeped in certain phases of the United States history of Florida than any other living person. This collection, although it contains comparatively few of the Spanish or other foreign language early material, is rich in materials printed in English, government and organization publications, magazines, and especially old Florida newspapers. The latter collection, indeed, is, on the whole, the only collection in existence, so far as I know, which competes with that of the Library of Congress, and in some respects it is ahead of the latter.<sup>10</sup> It should be noted that there are some volumes of very valuable newspapers in the office of the secretary of state at Tallahassee, but these do not

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<sup>9</sup> See Thomas, "Report . . . of St. Augustine."

<sup>10</sup> See James Owen Knauss, *Florida Territorial Journalism* (DeLand, The Florida State Historical Society, 1926).

begin to compare in number with those of the Yonge Collection. There are also a number of manuscripts in the latter collection, but no special effort has been made to collect this type of material. One of the great values of the collection lies in its amount of material of an unusual nature which has not been conserved in any other place.

Immediately before taking up the work of The Florida State Historical Society, I have purposed to speak of The Florida Historical Society. This, like the former, is state-wide, and is, indeed, the oldest state-wide historical society in Florida. In 1856, there was founded at St. Augustine the immediate predecessor of The Florida Historical Society, namely, The Historical Society of Florida. Its object was "the collection and preservation of documents and records bearing upon the history of Florida, from the earliest dates."<sup>11</sup> However, the life of this first organization was comparatively short largely because of the troublous period on which Florida, in common with the rest of the country, was entering.

The successor of the original society, the present Florida Historical Society, was first organized in Jacksonville, November 26, 1902, and chartered as a corporation, May 15, 1905. Its objects, as declared by its charter, are

the collection, arrangement and preservation of all material pertaining to the history of, or in any manner illustrative of Florida, including books, pamphlets, documents, archives, manuscripts, newspapers, diaries, notes, letters, speeches, maps, plats, surveys, portraits, photographs or other likenesses of men and women prominent in Florida history, pictorial illustrations of Florida scenery, relics and products. Also relics of every kind, whether historical or prehistorical, fossils, geological specimens, and anything in any manner illustrative of Florida.

To prepare, edit and publish articles, sketches, biographies, pamphlets, books and documents, descriptive or illustrative of Florida.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> See *Historical Society of Florida*, New York, printed by John A. Gray, 1856, "Constitution," Art. I. This society was founded principally through the efforts of the historian of Florida, George Rainsford Fairbanks, who became one of its vice-presidents. Its president was Major B. A. Putnam, and its other vice-presidents, Rev. J. H. Myers, Judge McQueen McIntosh, Senator D. L. Yulee, and Judge William A. Forward. In July, 1856, it had 24 honorary members, and 43 regular members, among whom was the historical scholar Buckingham Smith. See also, Julien C. Yonge, "Minutes of organization in 1856," in *The Florida Historical Society Quarterly*, July, 1924, pp. 4-8; and C. Seton Fleming, "Observation on original members," *ibid.*, pp. 10-16.

<sup>12</sup> See *The Florida Historical Society, Report of President; Charter and By-Laws*, Jacksonville, [1906], Art. II of Charter; and *The Florida State Historical Quarterly*, April, 1908, p. 3 (prospectus). The first president of the new Society was George Rainsford Fairbanks.

The Society suffered greatly from lack of adequate funds, yet in April, 1908, it undertook the publication of a quarterly review which lasted into the following year. After the death of Governor Fleming, its second president and one of its enthusiastic supporters, THE REVIEW succumbed and the Society languished. In 1924, however, the Society chiefly due to the efforts of one of its original members, Mr. Arthur T. Williams, was revived, and in July of that year the publication of the *Quarterly* was resumed under the efficient editorship of Julien C. Yonge. The organization has a small collection of books and antiquities. In 1925, under its auspices was published Thomas Frederick Davis's *History of Jacksonville*—the authoritative history of that city. The membership of the Society has been considerably increased throughout the state since its reorganization.

I now come to The Florida State Historical Society. Careful distinction must be made between this organization and the one just described for, because of the similarity of name, they are often confused. Although at present distinct organizations, it is not without the bounds of possibility that they may one day merge into one society. Neither, it should be said, receives a cent of money from the state. The Florida State Historical Society is still very young, for it dates only from 1921. It was made possible by two enthusiastic students and lovers of Florida and its history, namely, Mr. John B. Stetson, Jr., of Pennsylvania, present minister for the United States to Poland, and Mrs. Jeannette Thurber Connor of New York and Florida. The latter had long been interested in the beginnings of Florida and is now the greatest authority on early Florida. Having made a thorough study of Woodbury Lowery's two masterful books,<sup>13</sup> Mrs. Connor conceived the idea independently of carrying on the work from the point at which Lowery left it. Putting her plan into execution she began to amass transcripts of documents from the Library of Congress and from the Archivo General de Indias in Seville; and arranged for publication of materials. Before her first volume was ready for press, Mr. Stetson, led

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<sup>13</sup> Namely, *The Spanish Settlements within the present limits of the United States, 1513-1561*. New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1901; and *The Spanish Settlements within the present limits of the United States. Florida, 1562-1574*. New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1905. [As this proof is read, notice must be made of the sudden death of Mrs. Connor in June, 1927. She left much unfinished work, but plans are now being made to bring this to completion. By her death, Florida has lost perhaps its greatest historical asset.]

by his deep interest in the history of Florida, and his desire to do something of permanent value for the state, had conceived the idea of gathering and publishing sources for the history of Florida. The fates naturally willed it that these two should meet, and the result was the formation of The Florida State Historical Society. The overtures made to The Florida Historical Society, which had temporarily ceased to function, not meeting with the desires of that body, a new society was formed, so that today there are two state-wide societies in Florida.

The general objects of The Florida State Historical Society, as expressed in its charter (granted on November 29, 1921) are declared to be:

to further interest in the history of the State; to form a library devoted to Florida history; to acquire and preserve historical documents and memorabilia and collections of any sort referring to Florida; to foster research in early records; to publish results of such research; to render accessible scarce historical material by fac-simile or reprint; to discover, produce and preserve whatever relates to the topography, cartography and antiquities of Florida and to engage in any other proper activity; to be able as a body corporate to have, hold and enjoy all chattels, lands and tenements not to exceed in value Fifteen Thousand Dollars (exclusive of library and antiquities), and to acquire the same by gift, donation or purchase, and the power at all times to dispose of the same, in a manner authorized by law, . . .

The headquarters of the Society are at the John B. Stetson University, but the Society and the University are distinct entities. Its president at the date of this writing is Dr. G. Prentice Carson, dean of the University, and the other officers are: vice-president, Mrs. Jeannette Thurber Connor; treasurer, S. A. Wood; and recording secretary, Dr. E. P. Barrell, head of the chemistry department of the University. In order that the active work of the Society might be carried on continuously, the writer, who holds the rank of Research Professor in American History in the University, was appointed corresponding secretary and maintains an office in Washington for the better and easier conducting of the business and because of the presence here of the Library of Congress and the nearness to other large library centers. The committee on publications, consists of

John B. Stetson, Jr., chairman, and Dr. J. Franklin Jameson, Dr. George Parker Winship, and Mrs. Jeannette Thurber Connor, members. There is also a council of seventeen members, consisting of the four general officers of the Society and thirteen elective members. In the organization of the Society, Dr. Lincoln Hulley, president of the University, and Mrs. W. S. Jennings, wife of a former governor, and most active in the work of women's clubs in Florida, had a great share.

With regard to membership, the charter declares:

This Society shall be composed of the following classes of membership: honorary members, life members, contributing members, sustaining members, and annual members. Honorary membership is limited to twenty members. Life members shall consist of those who make a contribution of One Hundred Dollars, and they shall become exempt from further dues. The contributing members shall consist of persons who shall contribute Fifty Dollars annually to the objects of the Society. The sustaining members shall consist of those members who agree to purchase from the Society all its publications as fast as issued, at approximately cost, not exceeding Fifty Dollars in any calendar year. This class shall be limited to three hundred. Annual members shall consist of those who subscribe Five Dollars annually to the purposes of the Society. . . .

While the Society will eventually enroll all the classes of members mentioned above, it is for the present confining itself to the enrolling of sustaining members in order that its main present object of locating, gathering, and publishing the sources for the history of Florida may proceed. There is one exception—the King of Spain has been elected an honorary member. Of the three hundred<sup>14</sup> sustaining members desired, excluding deaths and resignations, there are now over two hundred and fifty. This membership is scattered throughout the states of the Union and in several foreign countries.

One might well ask at this point what has the Society done and what are its immediate plans for future work. Work, for the present is being restricted, in general, to the locating, copying (either by typing or photostatic reproduction) of materials for the history of Florida, and as rapidly as possible causing the same to be translated (when necessary), edited and published.

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<sup>14</sup> The charter as first granted provided for two hundred and fifty sustaining members. An amendment granted in 1926 raised this to three hundred.

To this end a vast amount of research work has been done in the Archivo General de Indias at Seville by Miss Irene A. Wright, who by special order is reproducing by photostatic process all Florida materials up to 1763, the year when Spain ceded the province to the British. Already about 75,000 sheets of photostatic reproductions have been received, which represent a great many thousand documents. The work of indexing and rendering these accessible is proceeding as rapidly as possible. This work was first begun privately by Mrs. Connor prior to the organization of the Society, and she has herself some thousands of documents, partly typed and partly photostated. All copies, with the exception of those belonging to Mrs. Connor are a personal expense on Mr. Stetson.

Some work has also been done in Madrid and Simancas, the documents from these two places being transcripts instead of photocopies. It is expected that similar work will be done in other foreign countries and that which has already been done in the United States continued. The work in this country has thus far been carried on in the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, The Clements Library of American History, the Ayer Collection, the García Collection, the Yonge Collection, the St. Augustine and Mobile parish records, The Henry E. Huntington Library, the Bancroft Collection, and a few other places—most of this having been done by the writer. There is still considerable research work to be done in this country.

Once materials have been obtained, there comes the question of publication. The Society has made extensive plans for this. Already publications have been issued as follows:

- No. 1. *The Anthropology of Florida*. By Aleš Hrdlička, Curator of Anthropology in the Smithsonian Institution. DeLand, Florida, 1922.
- No. 2. *Memorial of Solís de Merás*. Translated and edited by Jeannette Thurber Connor. DeLand, 1923. The story of the founding of St. Augustine; and one account of the massacre of the Huguenots.
- No. 3. *Notes on the Life and Work of Bernard Romans*. With a facsimile of the map of Florida by Romans, 1774. By P. Lee Phillips [now deceased]. Chief of Division of Maps in the Library of Congress. DeLand, 1923.
- No. 4. *A History of Florida from the Treaty of 1763 to Our Own Times*. By Caroline Mays Brevard. A posthumous

work in two vols. Edited by James Alexander Robertson. DeLand, 1924-1925.

No. 5. *Colonial Records of Spanish Florida. Selected Papers of Governors and Secular Persons.* Translated and edited by Jeannette Thurber Connor. Vol. I. 1570-1577. DeLand, 1926.

No. 6. *Florida Territorial Journalism.* [With a checklist of newspapers.] By James Owen Knauss. DeLand, 1926.

Two other books are now in press, namely:

*Jean Ribaut. The whole and true discovery of Terra Florida.* A facsimile Reprint of the London Edition of 1563 published by Thomas Hacket; together with a Transcript of the original English Version in the British Museum with Notes by H. M. Biggar and a Biography of Ribaut. By Janette Thurber Connor. [This was published in February, 1927.]

*The Luna Papers. Documents Relating to the Expedition of Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano for the Conquest of La Florida in 1559-1561.* Translated and edited by Herbert Ingram Priestley, with an Historical Introduction.

Other works in a greater or less state of preparation are the following:

*The Petitions of the Loyalists of Florida for Indemnification on account of Losses suffered because of leaving East Florida in 1784.* By Wilbur H. Siebert, of Ohio State University. [Now in the hands of the printer.]

*The Cédulas of the King of Spain referring to Florida, 1580-1604.* Translated and edited with an Historical Introduction by John B. Stetson, Jr.

*The Letters of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés.* Translated and edited with an Historical Introduction by Jeannette Thurber Connor. [This and the next work will be brought to completion.]

*Colonial Records of Spanish Florida.* Vol. II. By Jeannette Thurber Connor. [See above.]

*The Panton Papers.* Translated and edited with an Historical Introduction by Elizabeth Howard West.

*The Montiano Letters and the Oglethorpe Expedition against Florida.* Translated and edited with an Historical Introduction by William Whatley Pierson, Jr.

*Spanish Trade Policy in Florida.* Translated and edited, with an Historical Introduction by Arthur P. Whitaker.

*The Bibliography of Florida to the time of the Transfer; and a Checklist of books and pamphlets on Florida, 1821 to Present Time.* Compiled by James Alexander Robertson.

*The Flags of Florida.* By James Alexander Robertson.

*The British Legislative Journals of West Florida and Allied Documents.* Edited with an Historical Introduction by James Alexander Robertson.

To these will be added facsimiles or reprints of rare and important books. Among those already selected for reproduction are Cabeza de Vaca's original narrative of 1542, of which only few copies are known; the narrative of the Gentleman of Elvas, of which only two copies are known; and Bernard Romans, *Concise Natural History of East and West Florida*, 1775. Translations will accompany the first two.

This is a rather formidable program. But it is only the beginning. As the work progresses, it is hoped that volumes will continue to be edited by the foremost American scholars qualified for such work. In the case of books of Spanish documents, the original and translation are given in page-for-page form. This method of procedure was inaugurated in the *Spanish Colonial Records* of Mrs. Connor, and is continued in Priestley's *Luna Papers*. No pains are spared to reproduce all the peculiarities of the original manuscripts, so far as this is possible, which has rendered necessary the cutting of many special types. This plan will be followed in future works.

Volumes are issued in limited editions, generally of 350 copies, although this number may be increased in the case of some books. They are sold to the members of the Society at the approximate cost of manufacture and are not placed on general sale. It is planned to have each book finance itself, so far as manufacturing costs are concerned. This has not yet been done, and deficits have been met personally by Mr. Stetson and Mrs. Connor. As the sustaining membership is filled, it is expected that deficits will vanish.

In the manufacture of the books only the best workmanship and the best materials are permitted. The result is a pleasing, dignified book, worthy the Society and the state whose history it portrays. The books are made to last. They are not in the least gaudy or flashy but throughout in good taste. In conse-

quence of the workmanship, materials, and small editions, manufacturing costs are high, but not out of proportion to the book. For their mechanical excellence, indeed, three of the publications have been exhibited to the country at large as among the first fifty books made in the United States for the year in which they were made. Thus, on the mechanical side, the books represent the best that is being done in the United States from the standpoints of typography and presswork, and the arts of the paper manufacturer and binder. It is planned to have books set up, printed, and bound by the foremost printers and binders of the country.

What, then, is the use of all this? Is the Society an end unto itself? By no means. It is endeavoring, through the coöperation of the best scholars in the United States, to search out and publish the sources for the history of Florida. The real history of Florida has never yet been written and can not be written until the sources become known. From these sources it is expected that monographs will be written, and when the time is right, some great historical scholar will come forward and write for all time the history of Florida. That history is preëminently diversified and interesting and valuable. Spain and France and England, and lastly the United States (with the Civil War period) have had their fling there. Florida furnishes a study of French aspiration, of Spanish colonization and the attempt to found a buffer province, of British organization, and finally of American frontier life and transition from the status of territory to that of statehood. It forms a valuable chapter in the history of the western movement. It is linked up with the Carolinas, with Georgia, and with other Southern states, and finally, it is linked up in these latter years in a very special degree with all the states of the Union. The history of Florida has been transition from the beginning. It is still transition. It owes much to states like North Carolina, for thence came many of its best people. In a very special sense, indeed, Florida is the product of diverse forces. It has a story worth telling. The Florida State Historical Society is trying to furnish the materials for the telling of it.

Not only is the Society gathering materials and publishing them. It has been able to save from destruction the most famous

shell mound along the east coast of the state—the Turtle Mound near New Smyrna. This has often been referred to in the old documents, for it was the first landfall to incoming vessels and the last landmark to outgoing. Many of these interesting relics of a bygone age have been destroyed in the ruthless march of so-called progress for the purpose of utilizing their shells to make public roads. Turtle Mound, which rises well above the surrounding country, was destined to serve the same end, but The Florida State Historical Society was able to save it at the psychological moment by purchasing it through the aid of various friends, and it is now saved to the state and to the country. It is rich in archæological remains of its former aboriginal dwellers—who long antedated the Indians we know as Seminoles. Incidentally, the Mound is one of the best botanizing districts in Florida, for it abounds in growing forms of great interest. By its preservation alone, had The Florida State Historical Society done nothing else, would the existence of this organization have been justified!